The Difference in the Electoral Process in Various Countries

The election situation in different countries can be drastically different. Some nations hold peaceful, orderly elections that have speedy results. There are no violent outcries, no extra-judicial killings, no stolen ballot boxes, no rigged computer programs, and no bloody mess in the streets and in hidden corners. There are no unidentified bodies. And there is no need for strong military presence. In just a few hours, people all over the country already knew the results and the winners are declared immediately. Losers concede and everybody gets back to work.

In some countries, elections can be violent to the point of being bloody. Many political leaders get kidnapped and tortured. Community volunteers and their family members are threatened because of the parties or the causes that they are affiliated in. It is difficult to anger someone, especially if he or she comes from a well-heeled and influential political clan. Instead of the freedom that suffrage stands for, there is only fear. And most people would rather stay away than get involved because that would endanger themselves and their loved ones.

Some societies have the League of Women Voters—women who are vigilant about the issues in their society. They are not just concerned about women's rights and protecting their families, but they are also fighting for equality among genders and in being able to speak up about their rights. While women were only allowed to vote much later than men, a lot of them have since taken active roles in the political system and the government, making their voices heard and their actions seen. That way, women have been recognized that they can also become leaders and that they are more than just being capable of motherhood. They, too, can become government officials.

Anyway, while we are already in the modern world with high tech communications systems and widespread media coverage in all forms, there are still societies that suppress electoral rights of people, especially that of women. They are still living in an era where equality is not the norm—that societal classes still prevail. It is hard to erase such practices but maybe, eventually, with education, things will change. But there is still the haunting question—how many more people will be hurt and sacrificed in order for things to change in a certain place? Who knows? Most of the time, they are just called casualties of war so that liberation can happen.

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